Linux Foundation Coupon Codes (June 2026): How to Actually Pay Less for CKA, CKAD & CKS

> **Quick answer:** A working **Linux Foundation coupon** gives you 30% off year-round and up to 40–50% off during seasonal sales. The single biggest saving comes from buying a bundle — the Kubestronaut bundle (KCNA + KCSA + CKA + CKAD + CKS) plus the current code saves around **$785** versus paying for the five exams separately. Use one code per order, in uppercase, at checkout on `training.linuxfoundation.org`.

If you've spent more than five minutes searching for a Linux Foundation coupon, you've noticed something odd: every page screams a different number. One says 75% off, the next says 50%, another waves "$1,685 in savings" at you. They can't all be right — and the truth is, none of them is lying, exactly. They're just quoting the *best possible* discount, which almost never applies to the exam you actually want.

This guide does the opposite. Below are the codes that work right now, what each one really takes off the price you'll pay, and — the part nobody else explains — how to read a Linux Foundation sale so you walk away with the deepest discount instead of the loudest one. Every code is shown in full. You never have to click a button to "reveal" it.

Last verified: June 2026 · We re-check these codes at the start of every month.

Live Linux Foundation coupon codes (working today)

Start here. These are the offers worth using right now, newest first. Remember the one rule that governs all of them: **only one code applies per order**, so the goal is picking the single best one for your cart.

Discount	What it's best for	Coupon code
30% off	Any single certification or course, all year round	`DCUBE30`

Up to 40% off	Individual CKA, CKAD, CKS exams during a seasonal sale	`KUBE40`
Up to 50% off	The Kubestronaut bundle (five Kubernetes exams)	`K8BUN50`
20% off	Thrive-One annual subscription (includes a free exam voucher)	`THRIVE20`

Now the honest part most coupon pages skip.

How to read a Linux Foundation sale (so the headline doesn't fool you)

Here's the thing about that "Up to 75% OFF" banner. The phrase **"up to"** is doing all the work. Three patterns are worth understanding before you buy anything:

1. **The headline percentage is bundle math, not exam math.** A 65% discount almost always means "the Kubestronaut bundle, already discounted, plus a stacking code." A single CKA exam during the *same* sale is usually 35–40% off. Both are real — they just aren't the same deal.
2. **The urgency is mostly theatre.** "Only 24 hours left," "lock in the price," "76 left" — these create pressure, but the Linux Foundation runs a sale roughly every few weeks. If you miss one, another is usually close behind. The genuine deadlines are the *price increases* (more on those below), not the countdown timers.
3. **You can only use one code.** Stacking is impossible. The moment you apply a code at checkout, the field for a second one disappears. So forget collecting codes — your job is to find the one that saves the most on *your specific cart*.

Keep those three facts in mind and the rest of this page is easy to use. You'll know whether the "50% off" you're being shown applies to you, or to a bundle you don't want.

What each certification actually costs (with and without a code)

This is the table to bookmark. Linux Foundation exams fall into two price tiers: **professional**, performance-based exams (you solve real tasks in a live terminal) and **associate**, multiple-choice exams. Coupons apply to both.

Certification	Type	List price	After a ~35–40% code	Best code to use
CKA — Certified Kubernetes Administrator	Professional	$445	~$267–289	`KUBE40`
CKAD — Certified Kubernetes Application Developer	Professional	$445	~$267–289	`KUBE40`
CKS — Certified Kubernetes Security Specialist	Professional	$445	~$267–289	`KUBE40`
LFCS — Linux Foundation Certified System Administrator	Professional	$445	~$267–289	`DCUBE30`
KCNA — Kubernetes & Cloud Native Associate	Associate	$250	~$150–163	`KUBE40`
KCSA — Kubernetes & Cloud Native Security Associate	Associate	$250	~$150–163	`KUBE40`
PCA — Prometheus Certified Associate	Associate	$250	~$175	`DCUBE30`

Every exam includes one free retake and is valid for 12 months from the date you buy it. Prices are in USD worldwide.

One detail that matters more than the codes: **the professional exams went up to $445 in early 2025.** That's the "deadline" worth caring about. When the Linux Foundation announces another increase, buying a discounted voucher *before* the new price kicks in is the single

best move you can make — your voucher still works for a full year, so you lock in today's price even if you sit the exam months from now.

CKA coupon

The CKA is the most popular certification the Linux Foundation sells, so it's the one people search a discount for most. During a Kubernetes sale, `KUBE40` brings it to roughly **$267**. Outside a sale, `DCUBE30` still takes it to about **$311**. If you're also planning CKAD or CKS, stop here and skip to the bundle section — buying CKA alone is rarely the smartest spend.

CKAD and CKS coupons

Same price tier as CKA, same codes apply. CKAD suits developers shipping apps to Kubernetes; CKS is the security specialism and **requires an active CKA to certify**, so most people take CKA → CKS in sequence. If that's you, the **CKA + CKS bundle** beats two separate purchases every time.

LFCS coupon

The LFCS is the Linux sysadmin credential and the natural foundation under everything Kubernetes. It's priced like the professional Kubernetes exams ($445) and the year-round `DCUBE30` reliably applies. If you're brand new to Linux, pairing LFCS with a Kubernetes cert through an IT Professional Program (below) usually costs less than buying both exams plus separate training.

KCNA and KCSA coupons

These are the entry points — multiple-choice, $250 list, no hands-on terminal. KCNA is the gentle on-ramp to cloud-native concepts; KCSA covers security fundamentals. They're cheap enough that the discount is smaller in dollar terms, but they shine inside bundles, especially the Kubestronaut.

Bundles: where the real money is {#bundles-where-the-real-money-is}

If you take one thing from this page, take this: **bundles are the only place the big discounts actually live.** A bundle carries a built-in discount *before* any coupon, and the seasonal code then stacks on top of that. That double discount is the source of every "up to 60%" headline you've seen.

Bundle	List price	After bundle + code	You save	Code

Kubestronaut — KCNA + KCSA + CKA + CKAD + CKS	~~$1,685~~	~$900	**~$785**	`K8BUN50`
CKA + CKAD + CKS	~~$1,185~~	~$715	**~$470**	`KUBE40`
CKA + CKS	~~$790~~	~$485	**~$305**	`KUBE40`
KCNA + CKA	~~$695~~	~$415	**~$280**	`KUBE40`
KCSA + CKS	~~$695~~	~$465	**~$230**	`KUBE40`

Figures are rounded and shift with each sale. Always confirm the discounted total in your cart before paying.

The simple rule: if you plan to take **three or more** Kubernetes exams within a year, the Kubestronaut bundle is cheaper than buying them one at a time — even with no coupon at all. Add `K8BUN50` and you're paying roughly half of list. Completing all five also earns you the **Kubestronaut** title and some swag from the CNCF, which is a nice bonus on top of the savings.

Super bundles and the Golden Kubestronaut

During the largest sales (Lunar New Year, Cyber Monday), the Linux Foundation discounts **super bundles** — a certification plus five or six supporting courses — by as much as 75%. There are three to know:

- **Cloud Native Super Bundle** — CKA plus 6 courses
- **Cybersecurity Super Bundle** — CKA, CKS and LFCS plus 6 courses
- **Cloud Native Developer Super Bundle** — CKAD plus 5 courses

And for the truly committed, the **Golden Kubestronaut** path bundles 15+ certifications (LFCS, PCA, ICA, CCA, CAPA, CGOA, CBA, OTCA, KCA and the five Kubernetes exams). Buying those individually runs past $5,000; the bundle is heavily discounted before you even apply a code, and it unlocks perks like discounted KubeCon registration and complimentary Thrive-One access.

Bootcamps and IT Professional Programs

Not everyone wants to self-study. The Linux Foundation's **IT Professional Programs** (sometimes called bootcamps) bundle structured courses *and* the exams into a guided track, and they carry their own bundle savings — often around **$1,000–1,300** off list before any code.

- **Cloud Engineer Bootcamp** — a 6-month, zero-to-job-ready track ending in both **LFCS** (Linux) and **CKA** (Kubernetes). Covers Linux administration, networking, containers, and DevOps/SRE fundamentals.
- **Advanced Cloud Engineer Bootcamp** — for people past the basics, focused on Day-2 operations: logging, monitoring with Prometheus, service mesh, and **CKS** preparation.
- **DevOps Bootcamp** — a longer track covering Jenkins, GitOps with Flux, and DevSecOps for people pivoting from sysadmin work into modern DevOps.

A site-wide code usually applies *on top of* the bundle saving here, so check whether `DCUBE30` or the current seasonal code stacks before you buy. If you'd otherwise pay for the courses and the exam separately, these tracks are almost always the cheaper route.

Other certifications worth a coupon

The Kubernetes exams get the attention, but the same codes (or close cousins) cover a lot more.

- **NodeJS (JSNAD / JSNSD):** JavaScript developers can often find Node.js training and exam bundles at steep discounts — sometimes the deepest percentage of any sale, because they're promoted less.
- **FinOps Certified Practitioner (FOCP):** the cloud-cost-management credential, with its own occasional discount of around $57 off the exam, or a larger percentage on FinOps training bundles.
- **Prometheus (PCA), Istio (ICA), Argo (CAPA), GitOps (CGOA):** the cloud-native associate exams. Site-wide percentage codes apply to all of them.
- **KubeCon + CloudNativeCon passes:** the Linux Foundation periodically releases ~20% discount codes for event registration, covering both the All-Access and conference-only passes.
- **SkillCreds:** short, focused micro-credentials (Bash, Git, Helm, Vim, YAML) for proving a single skill without a two-hour proctored exam. Frequently discounted 20–25%.

The Thrive-One subscription strategy (often the cheapest path)

Here's a trick the percentage-off crowd rarely mentions. **Thrive-One** is the Linux Foundation's all-access subscription — think "Netflix for DevOps training" — and the annual plans *include a free certification voucher.*

Plan	Price	What you get
Monthly	$49 / month	Full e-learning catalogue; 1 voucher after 10 consecutive months
Thrive-One Standard	$499 / year	Everything above + **1 exam voucher** (up to $445 value)
Thrive-One Premium	$599 / year	Everything above + **2 exam vouchers** (up to $790 value)

Run the math. The Standard plan costs $499 and includes a voucher worth up to $445 — which means a year of unlimited courses effectively costs you about **$54**. Apply `THRIVE20` to the subscription and the gap narrows further. If you were going to buy a CKA voucher *and* wanted training anyway, the subscription frequently wins on total value. All tiers also include a **10-day risk-free trial**, so you can look before you commit.

Tux Rewards: the built-in 50% coupon nobody talks about

The deepest discount the Linux Foundation offers isn't a public code at all — it's the loyalty program, and it quietly beats almost every sale.

Here's how it works:

- You earn **1 point per dollar** spent on training or certification.
- Hit **500 points** and you unlock a coupon for **50% off** any single course, exam, bundle, or bootcamp.
- Spend $500+ in one transaction (a bundle, say) and you're **automatically enrolled** — and purchases from the previous two years can count toward the threshold.

The catch: the 50% reward coupon **can't be stacked** with a public promo code. But you'll rarely want to — 50% off usually beats whatever sale is running. If you've bought a bundle in the last couple of years, check your balance before you reach for any code on this page.

👉 Check your Tux Rewards balance

So which coupon should *you* use?

Because it's one code per order, picking right is the whole game. Use this:

- **One exam, no sale on?** → `DCUBE30` for a guaranteed 30% off.
- **One Kubernetes exam during a sale?** → the seasonal `KUBE40` (it beats the standing code).
- **Three or more exams?** → Kubestronaut bundle + `K8BUN50`. Nothing beats it per-exam.
- **Want training *and* a cert?** → compare Thrive-One Standard (voucher included) against exam-plus-code. The subscription often wins.
- **500+ Tux Rewards points?** → use your 50% loyalty coupon and ignore everything else.

How to redeem a Linux Foundation coupon (step by step)

It takes under a minute. The only thing people get wrong is the casing — **enter codes in uppercase, exactly as shown.**

1. **Pick your product** at training.linuxfoundation.org — a certification, course, or bundle.
2. **Add to cart and start checkout.**
3. **Sign in or create a free account** (required to complete the purchase).
4. **Find the "Coupon / Promo Code" field**, just below the order summary.
5. **Paste the code and click Apply.** The total updates instantly, before you enter card details.
6. **Check the new total, then pay.** Your voucher is valid for 12 months and includes a free retake.

If the discount doesn't appear, the usual culprits are lowercase letters, an expired code, or a product the code excludes (some codes skip FinOps or certain subscriptions). Try the year-round `DCUBE30` as a fallback.

When to buy vs. when to wait: the Linux Foundation sales calendar

The Linux Foundation's discounts are seasonal and fairly predictable. If you're not in a hurry, timing your purchase around a sale can save more than any single code. Rough annual rhythm:

Time of year	Sale	Typical depth
Late January / February	Lunar New Year Sale	Up to 75% on super bundles; 35% on exams
March	Women's Day / spring sales	~35–40% off
Mid-year (June–July)	Kubernetes Birthday & Sysadmin sales	~40% off + flat bundle discounts
Sept–Oct	Back-to-School / Prime sales	Up to 47% site-wide
Late November	**Cyber Monday**	**The deepest of the year — up to 60–65% on bundles**
December	Holiday Sale	~40–47% off

The honest recommendation: if a price increase isn't looming and you can wait until late November, **Cyber Monday is the best deal of the year — full stop.** If you need the cert sooner, any active seasonal sale plus the right code already puts you in good shape. The year-round 30% is your floor, so you're never forced to pay full price while you wait.

Refund policy (read before you buy)

Refund windows are short, so buy with intent:

- **Certification exams:** refundable within **3 business days** of purchase — *if* the exam hasn't been scheduled or taken.
- **Self-paced courses:** similar 3-day window, provided you haven't completed the course.
- **Instructor-led courses:** usually must be cancelled at least **14 days** before the start date.
- **Thrive-One subscriptions: 10-day** risk-free trial; cancel within 10 days for a full refund.

Always confirm the specific terms at checkout. The authoritative source is the official Linux Foundation money-back guarantee.

Are Linux Foundation certifications even worth it?

Fair question before you spend $300 — discount or not. A few things that make these credentials different from the average online cert:

You're tested by the people who steward the technology. The Linux Foundation hosts the Linux kernel itself and the Cloud Native Computing Foundation (which governs Kubernetes). A CKA isn't a third-party course certificate; it's an assessment from the organisation behind the tool.

The Kubernetes exams are hands-on. CKA, CKAD, and CKS aren't multiple choice — you fix real clusters in a live terminal under time pressure. That's exactly why hiring managers trust them: you can't cram your way past a task you can't actually perform.

They show up in real job postings. CKA, CKAD, and CKS are among the most-cited certifications in cloud-infrastructure and DevOps roles, and open-source skills consistently rank high in hiring-manager surveys. For someone breaking into or levelling up in DevOps/SRE/platform engineering, they carry weight.

The caveat: a certification is a door-opener, not a substitute for building things. Pair the exam with real projects — a homelab cluster, a side project you actually deploy — and the credential does its job. Buy it on a coupon, study with the included course or a good practice set, and the cost-to-value math is hard to argue with.

Expired offers (they come back)

These have ended but typically return on the calendar above, so they're worth knowing about: **Cyber Monday** (deepest of the year), **Lunar New Year** (super-bundle blowout), **KubeCon sales** (~40% on Kubernetes certs), **Summer Sysadmin** (flat bundle discounts), and the **Holiday / Back-to-School** site-wide events. If you see one referenced as "live" elsewhere with a dead code, it's usually last season's — check the verification date.

Frequently asked questions

Does the Linux Foundation offer coupon codes?

Yes. There's a year-round discount of around 30% on individual certifications, plus several seasonal sales each year that push individual exams to 40–50% off and bundles to 60–65% off. The deepest sale is Cyber Monday in late November.

What is the best Linux Foundation coupon right now?

For the biggest dollar saving, the Kubestronaut bundle plus the current seasonal code wins, because you're discounting five exams at once (around $785 saved). For a single exam, the seasonal Kubernetes code beats the year-round 30% code.

Can I use a coupon on the CKA, CKAD, and CKS exams?

Yes. Site-wide percentage codes apply to individual CKA, CKAD, and CKS purchases as well as the Kubernetes bundles. Check each code for exclusions such as FinOps courses or certain subscriptions.

Can I stack two Linux Foundation coupons?

No. Only one promotional code works per order. Once you apply one, the field for a second disappears. Compare which single code saves more on your exact cart and use that one.

How do I apply the coupon at checkout?

Add your product to the cart at training.linuxfoundation.org, go to checkout, paste the code into the Coupon/Promo Code field in uppercase exactly as shown, and click Apply. The total updates before you pay.

How long do the discounts and vouchers last?

The year-round discount is always available; seasonal sales run from a few days to about a month. A voucher you buy with a code stays valid for 12 months and includes one free retake.

Is there a Linux Foundation discount for learners in India?

Yes. Percentage codes are valid globally with no geographic restriction, including India, though pricing is in USD. Learners seeking fully funded access can also apply for the Linux Foundation LiFT Scholarship Program.

Is the CKA exam hands-on or multiple choice?

Hands-on. The CKA, CKAD, and CKS are performance-based — you complete real tasks in a live Kubernetes environment within a time limit. KCNA and KCSA are the multiple-choice associate exams.

What's the cheapest way to get a CKA?

Three options, roughly tied depending on timing: (1) a Cyber Monday code on the exam, (2) the Kubestronaut bundle if you want multiple certs, or (3) a Thrive-One Standard subscription, where the included voucher can make the exam almost free relative to the subscription's training value. If you have 500 Tux Rewards points, your 50% coupon is cheapest of all.

Do the coupons work on bootcamps and IT Professional Programs?

Often, yes — a site-wide code can stack on top of the bundle saving already built into bootcamps. Always check whether the current code applies before you buy, since some sales exclude them.

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